

April 22, 2016

Subject: April 22, 2016

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Date: 04/22/2016 07:58 PM

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UPCOMING EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS



Shopping within the City limits of Los Angeles not only supports local businesses, it also supports City services, its neighborhoods and the well-being of all Los Angeles residents. For every \$10 you spend on taxes - \$1 goes back to the General Fund! Whether shopping along Melrose or grabbing some food in Encino, every dollar we spend within the city is an investment to the future of Los Angeles. Details [HERE](#).

Send us your news and events!
If you or your community group have any upcoming events that you would like to see

Wildlife Corridor

On April 22, Earth Day, 2016, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved Councilmember Koretz's motion calling for creating a wildlife corridor from Griffith Park to the 405 freeway, and studying creating wildlife corridors all along the Rim of the Valley map proposal.

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Executive Director Joe Edmiston, who spoke as an expert witness before the City Council, responded to concerns that the proposed regulations would "impose undue burdens on developers" by pointing to wildlife corridors in other areas, where he said development has not been negatively impacted.

"Developers can move over a little so that animals can have their pathways," Edmiston said.

The City Council's action today directs the City's Planning Department to prepare and present an ordinance to create a Wildlife Corridor in the eastern area of the Santa Monica Mountains, from Griffith Park to the 405 freeway, requiring the following:

- a) Do not issue any building or grading permits until project applicants ensure that they will permanently accommodate wildlife habitat connectivity as part of their development projects.
- b) Require easements and deed restrictions in perpetuity to protect wildlife habitat connectivity.
- c) Formally designate the area as a Regional Wildlife Habitat

featured in our next newsletter or on my website, please e-mail me at paul.koretz@lacity.org.

Please feel free to send this newsletter along to your friends and neighbors and tell them to visit the CD 5 website at <http://cd5.lacity.org> to sign up for this newsletter.

Linkage Zone in the Los Angeles Municipal Code, in as much as just one single family residential project can cause adverse impacts to the existing and threatening wildlife population.

d) Require a Biological Constraints Checklist as part of every new building project, so that each project will undergo a 'habitat connectivity and wildlife permeability review' within areas of concern.

Councilmember Paul Krekorian introduced an amendment instructing Planning staff to report on the feasibility of identifying the areas within the City of Los Angeles, which are in or within 500 feet of the entire National Park Service, Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resources Study Area (February 2016) as a "Potential Regional Wildlife Habitat Linkage Zone", and to provide a system of informing all applicants of building permits and planning approvals that they are within this Zone and should make feasible accommodations for wildlife linkages; require the accommodation of wildlife linkage areas with map design guidelines, during the approval process of any subdivision of land or lot line adjustments, within this zone; and report on the feasibility of the DCP to incorporate these maps and critical Wildlife linkage areas at the time of Community Plan updates.

These are relatively tiny changes to the planning code but will make a massive difference in the health and well-being of our mountain lions, bobcats, deer, foxes, raccoons, and coyotes, and will make it much easier to co-exist with all these creatures.

Congress recognized the Santa Monica Mountains as a nationally significant in 1978 when it created the National Recreation Area. The National Park Service, which administers the area, identified increasing urbanization and habitat fragmentation as key challenges to protecting local wildlife and a functioning ecosystem. The motion approved today will go a long way towards addressing that problem.

Councilmembers Jose Huizar, David Ryu, Mitch O'Farrell and Paul Krekorian were all strong support of this motion. It could not have been done without the hard work and advocacy of CLAW (Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife), Marian Dodge and the Hillside Federation, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the National Park Service and the other members of the amazing coalition who worked so hard to educate communities and neighborhood councils across the hillside region on why creating wildlife corridors is so important. A large number of neighborhood councils weighed in in support, including the Bel Air/Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, Mar Vista Community Council, the Encino

Neighborhood Council, the Foothills Trail District Neighborhood Council, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council and the Studio City Neighborhood Council.

Councilmember Koretz said he wants our children and grandchildren to have the same pleasure we all have had in enjoying our region's biodiversity and that the future can now be bright for our mountain lions, bobcats, raccoons and deer.

Great news for Castle Heights Elementary School!

Friends of West Los Angeles – Fowla – is a tremendous benefactor of local schools, parks, libraries, and police and fire stations and personnel, and on April 22, the happy beneficiary was Castle Heights Elementary School, for the school was the recipient of a check for \$34,375.

Councilmember Koretz was on hand to join California Country Club Homes Association president Allyson Saunders in presenting the check on behalf of Fowla, her Association and the Cheviot Hills HOA. Castle Heights Principal Sean Kearney, as well as Friends of Castle Heights, were among those present to celebrate this magnanimous and tremendously helpful gesture, which will provide great support for the school in its future endeavors.

Councilmember Koretz visits Castle Heights Elementary School. Photo courtesy of FOWLA's website.

City Budget

The Mayor's proposed City Budget has been released and will be reviewed by the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee during intensive hearings that begin on Wednesday, April 27th at 9 a.m. in the City Council chambers in City Hall. Councilmember Koretz will again be directly involved as a member of the committee.

The \$8.76 million proposed Budget strives to increase efficiencies and services in a variety of areas, begin the process of bringing civilians into LAPD's ranks to allow more sworn officers to be on patrol, inject more muscle and compassion into the City's attempt to deal with homelessness,

and start a wholesale updating of Community Plans across Los Angeles, among many other things.

If you'd like to check out the Budget, please visit:

<http://lamayor.org/budget20162017>

Short-Term Rentals

The long-awaited draft "Home Sharing" ordinance was released on April 15th and already has drawn both praise and criticism for its attempt to clamp down on what some feel have been abuses committed by people involved in the practice.

The current language requires that all Home Sharing hosts register with the City and pay the transient occupancy tax charged to people who operate hotels. It bans these rentals in Rent Stabilized units and requires that only residences that are the primary residences for the host be allowed to do short-term rental, but only for up to 90 days a year. (Councilmember Koretz would like to see that number reduced.)

The ordinance places a burden on the on-line "platforms" (such as AirBnB) to provide the City with information that will aid in enforcement, something they have been reluctant to do in other locales. For this and many other reasons, the Home Sharing ordinance promises to remain a hot topic of debate for months to come.

You can view the ordinance, a summary and a notice for an upcoming May 21st public hearing at:

<http://planning.lacity.org/Ordinances/ProposedOrdinances.htm>

If you want or need free medical care...

Councilmember Koretz greets Dr. Lela Lewis, President/CEO, Your BestPathwaytoHealth.

Approximately 4,200 healthcare professionals and volunteers will be operating a no-cost medical and dental clinic in Los Angeles, California on April 27-29, 2016. Over \$30 million in free health-related services will be offered to noninsured and underinsured residents of Los Angeles at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The event is organized by Your Best Pathway to Health, a service of Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries (ASI), in partnership with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Adventist Health, Loma Linda University Health and other entities. Your Best Pathway to Health is co-sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. They are hoping to serve as many as

10,000-12,000 patients during that three-day span. People will be helped on a “first come, first served” basis – and needless to say, there might be very long lines, with people starting to line up the day before.

Free on-site services include primary care visits, women’s health services including pap smears and mammography, consultation by medical specialists including heart evaluation, as well as gastroenterology, neurology, pulmonology, rheumatology, infectious disease, general and orthopedic surgery, pediatrics, podiatry services, immunizations, root canals, crowns, fillings, extractions, dental cleaning, pharmacy, eyeglass fittings and examinations, STD screenings, medical massage, physical therapy, x-rays, laboratory services, haircuts, attorney services, financial counseling, chaplaincy services and a free meal.

Many major surgical procedures are also being offered for free –including gall bladders (cholecystectomies), hysterectomies, hernia repairs, urologic procedures, orthopedic procedures and much, much more. However, these procedures will require prescreening –**those interested in major surgical procedures should download the “surgery referral form” and get it filled out and submitted no later than Monday, April 25.** The form can be found at the website, **YourBestPathwayToHealth.org**, or by calling 1-888-44-Pathway ([1-888-447-2849](tel:1-888-447-2849)).

The free clinic runs from 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on April 27 & 28, and from 7:00 a.m. – noon on April 29. No appointment is necessary, other than for major surgical procedures.







We, too, live in earthquake country

Killer earthquakes recently struck Ecuador and Japan, and our hearts go out to those countries and their people. The tragic news also serves as a reminder that we here in Southern California should always be ready and knowledgeable about the threat of earthquakes and how we can do much to mitigate the danger by being well prepared. One wonderful thing people can do is take Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training offered by the Los Angeles Fire Department, since CERT is such a good program for helping individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities become more aware about what to do or not to do in emergency situations. There are also many great checklists of safety tips to be found on various governmental, organizational and news media websites.

Here are two tip sheets from the Great California Shakeout effort regarding what to do at the moment of an earthquake:
<http://www.earthquakecountry.org/downloads/ShakeOutRecommendedEarthquakeSafetyActions.pdf>

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[http://www.earthquakecountry.org/downloads/ShakeOut
Earthquake Guide Disabilities AFN.pdf](http://www.earthquakecountry.org/downloads/ShakeOutEarthquake%20Guide%20Disabilities%20AFN.pdf)

and here's a valuable booklet filled with great safety tips,
courtesy of the LAPD and CERT:

<http://www.cert-la.com/EmergPrepBooklet.pdf>

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